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ABSTRACT

Several factors are presented in the document which make it apparent that those in the camping profession should accept the fact that outdoor education will take place on a variety of levels. In keeping with this, a partnership between school districts and camps is discussed, along with host camps' basic services of personnel, food services, health and safety, housekeeping, facilities, pre-camp orientation, and programs. Additional possible services are listed, as well as school personnel responsibilities relating to supervision and guidance, daily care of facilities, teaching supplies, program scheduling, and transportation. (AN)

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OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Criteria for Relationships Between Camp and School in Planning for an Outdoor Education Program

Outdoor education is the blending of academic expertise with the available natural resources and expertise of the camping profession to achieve an enriching educational experience for children.

The degree of blend can vary from the absolute minimum to the maximum depending upon a variety of factors. The prime element is the depth of understanding and appreciation of each other's area of responsibility, available opportunities and limitations.

How prepared are teachers for venturing into a daily living situation with their pupils?

How confident are they in restructuring their lesson plans to include outdoor education activities?

Do the camping people recog nize the teachers' accountability toward the pupil, the curriculum, the required levels of achievement?

Are the camping people content to possibly be involved at absolute minimum or work with teachers and supervisors toward gradually enriching the program in relation to the teachers' current level of acceptance?

These factors make it apparent that the camping profession should accept the fact that outdoor education will take place on a variety of levels. And, they should recognize that at no matter what level the partnership begins, the opportunities for learning will be increased a thousandfold.

Some School Districts will be fortunate in having on their staffs experienced people in both areas.

In such a situation the host camp need have minimum involvement in curriculum planning and daily program. However, the host camp should be represented at all planning and evaluation meetings - before camp, during camp and after camp. The camp representative should be prepared to describe facilities, areas, program opportunities indigenous to his camp area, - for example a nearby Forest Ranger, a dairy farm, historic sites, geological areas, cook-out areas, camp-out sites, trails. He should be present throughout the camp session - relating to the school administrator.

Some School Districts will not have any personnel familiar with outdoor education - but yet are interested in relating to an outdoor education program. In this situation the host camp should be prepared to have a more involved role.

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In addition to meeting with the teachers and supervisors in the city, the host camp should be able to offer assistance in the way of personnel such as: naturalist, conservationist, astronomer, ornithologist. Items such as cabin supervision, dining hall procedures, safety, etc. would require specific presentations from the host camp representative. Also, how camp activities can blend with educational goals.

Interested host camps therefore should determine to what extent they should or can be involved. At what level of readiness is the School District, and at what level is the Host Camp, prepared from the standpoint of facilities and personnel, to achieve the blend toward an enriching outdoor education program. Realistic recognition of strengths and weaknesses on the part of the School and Camp is the foundation for a successful program.

Basic Services of Host Camp

1. Personnel

A. Host camp should provide one person to have direct liaison to educational camp administrator (school person in charge of entire program at camp). This relationship starts from the very beginning of the planning stages and continues throughout the entire camp experience and into the area of evaluation.

The camp liaison person should be responsible to:

Acquaint all personnel with camp facilities, areas, etc. Use slides, photos, movies - best by visit to camp.

Meet with teachers, children and supervisors in the city - to assist in planning for program, daily activities, and curriculum.

Stand by and observe throughout the outdoor education program - to suggest additions, changes, as per weather, etc. - always working through the educational camp administrator.

Attend all evaluation and critique meetings.

Reach agreement as to what supplies the camp can offer - what supplies the school can bring.

Insurance coverage - all aspects
Method of compensation

Scheduling of the day - getting up time, eating time, rest hours, evening programs.

B. One Maintenance Man - on an 8-hour basis - and available for emergency calls.

C. One Registered Nurse - Either the school or camp should be responsible for staffing this area - but, a nurse is a must.

D. Complete Kitchen Staff - There are 2 possible arrangements:

1. The school can lease a Food Service, or

2. The camp can provide the staff

E. Driver of Camp Vehicle - Either the camp supplies a driver or one person from the school staff should be assigned as driver.

F. Waterfront Staff - for swimming, boating, and fishing.

2. Food Services

If the camp provides the kitchen staff, then the camp is responsible for:

Menus
Purchasing
Invoice inventory
Storage
Preparation

Serving of Food - to be done by paraprofessionals and campers. The camp liaison person should orientate this group in the methods and techniques.

Menu plans should include snacks, cook-outs, special events meals. They should allow for Board and Parents Day - serve lunch to the entire group.

Once the pattern is established, the educational camp administrator is responsible for maintaining these areas.

3. Health and Safety

A registered nurse should be employed by the camp or the school - she should be responsible to the educational camp administrator.

Alert local health officers - doctors and hospital in the area.

Have all emergency phone numbers in a prominent place near the phone: fire - doctor - ambulance - state troopers.

Acquaint all personnel with risk areas in the camp - and in surrounding areas. For example, only kitchen personnel should be permitted in the kitchen area. All personnel should know the precedure in case of fire, accident, etc.

4. Housekeeping

The assigned camp maintenance man should be responsible for supplying brooms, pails, mops, paper towels, toilet tissue, etc. Also linens, blankets, and towels.

The campers and leaders should be responsible for keeping all areas clean: cabins, dining hall, all buildings used, and sanitary facilities.

5. Facilities

Present an accurate sketch of number of sleeping facilities - indicate what time of year they can be used comfortably. How many can be served at one time. How many in each cabin - show number of beds; indicate all possible classroom space - the number of specialty buildings, arts & crafts, etc.

Indicate trails, if available. Swimming area, all program areas; supply room, mailbox, toilets marked boys or girls.

6. Pre-Camp Orientation

Host camp liaison person should meet with the teachers and supervisors at the camp - previous to the program date.

1. All physical facilities
2. Procedures - dining - emergency, etc.
3. Lines of communication
4. Possible ways of blending academic with available natural resources.

The second meeting should be with the children, their parents, and the teachers in the City. Show slides of camp - describe where the children are to sleep - coverage, etc.

7. Program

Provide list of all points of interest, farms, historic sites, geological areas, Forest Ranger stations.

Special program areas of camp - theatre, campfire sites, nature lodge.

Provide geodetic maps of the area - aerials.

Interest points all along the way from the City to the country.

Indicate local people who are available: Forest Rangers, conservationists, artists, experts in local lore.

8. Miscellaneous

Provide a map indicating driving instructions.

Provide a suggested clothing list for children and staff.

Additional Possible Services of Host Camp

1. Naturalist
2. Conservationist
3. Ornithologist
4. Use of special equipment: telescopes, crafts building, movie projector, microscopes, fishing poles, hiking equipment.
5. Forest Ranger
6. Indian Lore Specialist
7. Music and Dance Specialist
8. Outdoor Education Specialist - help plan curriculum with school personnel

School Personnel Should be Responsible for:

1. Total supervision and programming of children, 24 hours a day.
   (a) School person to be Camp Director (b) Host Camp to be advisor and consultant.
2. Daily care of facilities - sweeping all areas free of debris, papers, etc. - set tables, serve food, housekeeping of all buildings used, sanitary facilities, etc.
3. To supply all teaching supplies, books, paper, pencils, blackboards, audio-visual equipment, chalk, erasers, athletic equipment.

4. Scheduling of program -- personnel grouping, leadership assignments.

5. Transportation of children to and from camp and to and from interest points.

6. Guidance and supervision of paraprofessionals, teachers, specialists, kitchen staff by educational camp administrator - Host Camp liaison as advisor and consultant.

There is no doubt that this partnership will produce a multitude of teachable moments not possible in a classroom. The intimate group-living in a natural setting is bound to develop a teacher-pupil rapport that will enhance the rate of learning. The discovery of the fascinating wonders in the natural world will give birth to a renewed zest for life.

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